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of a ridge, but the late Thomas Kellison of Little Back Creek had beaten them to it by a matter of a few days.

Seng stalks were lying around in piles and bundles. He had made a rich haul. There was plenty of sign too that the patch had been dug years before.

Though the boys missed the big prize, the trip was well worth while as they dug nearly two hundred dollars worth of seng, as they traveled in ferreting out the big patch.

On the trip the boys found that the old line went through such a big patch of laurel, they were the better part of two days working their way through it, camping in the middle of it one night.

Although the big timber was cut years ago, Sol believes he has the place so well marked in his mind that he can make his way to it again.

Pocahontas Times for June 1937

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Mr. James Workman of the Little Levels District gave me the following information:

Along about 1830 or 1840, A. J. Workman, the father of Sol and Jim Workman, bought a farm of 175 Acres on Rock Run. He was one of the greatest sengers in the county. I have been told by many people that he could see a stalk of ginseng as far as the eye could carry. He paid for this farm by selling ginseng at seventy-five cents per pound. Mr. Workman told me that in those days ginseng was about the only thing that a farmer could get any money from. Of course, the furs of the mink and coons could be sold or traded for salt, sugar or coffee. Mr. Workman would go to Williams River and stay for weeks at a time. He would take with him only bacon, corn meal and coffee. Sometimes he would not even carry a gun. Once, while out there, he heard a panther kill a deer at night. As he had no gun, he waited until morning and then went to look for what remained of the deer. He said there was about half of the deer remaining and he dressed this and brought it back to use.

Mr. Workman remembers hearing his father talk about trading with John Harness at Huntersville. He would take his pelts, venison and ginseng and would bring home salt, powder, coffee, lead or whatever he could get that he needed.

Besides ginseng, there were other herbs which were sold, such as golden seal and seneca snake root.

Mr. Workman remembers the first white sugar he ever saw.



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He said that they, as children, thought it the finest candy they had ever eaten.

The livestock was kept in pens near the house to keep it safe from the wild animals. But even this failed at times. Bears often came at night and took the pigs out of the pens. In those days they did not worry so much about raising enough corn for their stock. They would just turn them out and fatten them on dogwood and birch.

They had regular days for trading, usually near the last of the week. They traded horses, live stock, furs and anything they had for the things they needed.

Sometime between 1885-89 a coal mine was opened at Briary Knob. The coal was hauled to Laurel Run to fire a locomotive used for a log train by the St. Lawrence Boom and Manufacturing Company. This locomotive had been hauled in here on wagons a piece at a time and then put together here. The locomotive was called "Pocahontas". There were 45,000,000 ft. of white pine taken out of that one hollow.

From West Virginia Geological Survey - 1929- Pocahontas Co.

In Pocahontas County coals are found in the Pocono and Mauch Chunk Series of the Mississippi and the Kanawha and New River Groups of the Pottsville Series, but only in the latter two groups that coals of commercial value and minable thickness are found, the Pocahontas Group and the Pottsville Series that contains the famous Pocahontas coals of southern West Virginia being



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entirely absent in this area. The coals of the Kanawha and New River Groups, <sup>that</sup> are present in this county are confined to the western limits of Little Levels, Edray, and Greenbank Districts.

Of the five Pottsville coals which occur in this county there are three which appear to have a definite minable thickness in some localities. The three beds regarded as minable in descending order are the Gilbert, Hughes Ferry, and Sewell coals.

Because of their distance from permanent railroads and coal markets, and their general inaccessibility, their development will undoubtedly be in the somewhat distant future, but should nevertheless be considered as one of the county's valuable potential resources.

There are no commercial mines in Pocahontas County.

In the vicinity of Hillsboro, there are deposits of marble varying in color from red to maroon to a pinkish tinge and from that to various shades of gray. This marble phase varies from 25 to 40 feet in thickness and will produce stone suitable for ornamental purposes. At the time of the building of the new State Capitol, this marble was offered but refused, perhaps on account of its inaccessibility.